

MORAL CAMEOS FOR MUSALMANS

Were they to see
A piece of the Sky
Falling (on them), they
Would (only) say: "Clouds
Gathered in heaps!"
So leave them alone
Until they encounter
That Day of theirs,
Wherein they shall (per-
force)
Swoon (with terror).—
The Day when their plotting
Will avail them nothing
And no help shall be
Given them.
—The Quran; Tur; 44 to 46.

Dawn

Wednesday, January 1, 1947.

BURMA'S FUTURE

FROM what Thakin Than Tun, President of the Burmese Communist Party, is reported to have told the A.P.A. in an interview, it would appear that the Burmese Reds believe that a revolution can be made to order. Flirting with the idea of a revolution and talking about it glibly is a strange method which well-meaning revolutionists like Mr. J. P. Narain are applying for the attainment of freedom. A serious revolutionary who wants to bring about a great socio-political transformation in a country would not so easily unfold his plans to a news agency as Mr. Than Tun appears to have done. He is reported to have confided to the A.P.A. that in the forthcoming "battle" his self-styled "Red Army" forces were fully prepared for all eventualities including bloodshed. At present, he disclosed, the Communists were engaged in or rather were confining their activities to sponsoring mass demonstrations and attempting to initiate industrial strikes in order to demonstrate their opposition to British rule.

Since the re-conquest of Burma by the British, no radical measures have been adopted to give the reins of that country to her people. H.M.G.'s decision to call a conference of the Burmese leaders to discuss the problem of Burma's political future might have the effect of temporarily easing political tension. If, however, British statesmanship does not realise the gravity of the situation and fails to appreciate Burmese aspirations for independence without delay, the present state of indecision might give birth to political upheavals in the country.

The rift between the Anti-Fascist Peoples' Freedom League and the Burmese Communists has led to a corresponding division in the ranks of the democratic forces striving for freedom. While the A.F.P.F.L. has accepted office in the Governor's Executive Council, the Communists are showing more impatience and are actively organising partial struggles of the workers and peasants to offer resistance to the administration. Whatever the mass backing they enjoy in Burma it is problematical if they would succeed in attaining Burmese freedom without the co-operation of the A.F.P.F.L. Much will depend on the success or otherwise of Gen. Aung San's mission to London and it can be safely maintained that in case of failure the forces of extra-parliamentary struggle will gain ground. The mass upsurge for freedom it seems is being exploited as an opportunity by warring political factions to gain sectional advantage and political ascendancy. In such circumstances no political prophet would perhaps dare to predict the future of Burma.

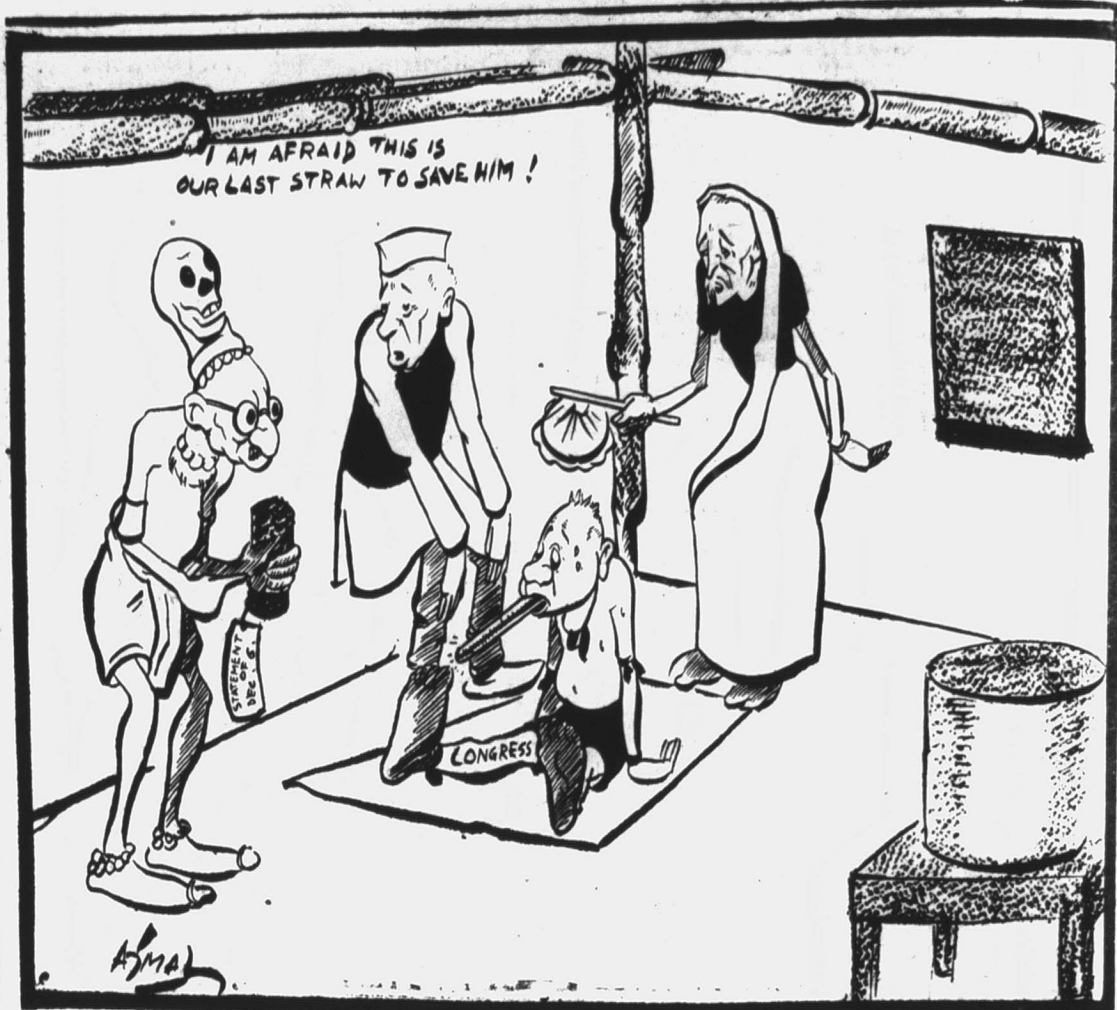
CHINA'S WORRIES

There seems to be no end to China's worries, with the Kuomintang determined to impose a constitution of its choice and the Communists and other democratic elements equally determined to resist the imposition. A deadlock is the result and with the reported decision of the Communist leaders to set up a parallel government to that of the Central Government events seem to be heading for a crisis. It has been the misfortune of this ancient people not to enjoy peace and settled conditions for long years now. With the Revolution of 1911 hope of a unified Central Government, whose authority will be accepted throughout the country, was entertained but the premature death of Dr. Sun Yat-sen deprived the country of a leader of unquestioned authority among his people. Rival jealousies among his chief lieutenants led to intensification of strife and civil war destroying the normal daily life of the people. With the Japanese invasion of Manchuria 15 years ago some sort of a temporary unity was achieved but with the end of the war old rivalries and ideological differences have again come to the fore, destroying the hopes of a permanent political settlement. Essentially the present struggle is between the forces of Kuomintang dictatorship and other democratic elements in China.

It was most unfortunate that the National Assembly which recently drew up the Chinese constitution was deprived of the representation of powerful elements in the national life of China like the Chinese Communist Party, the Democratic League and similar bodies who have been clamouring for ending the present dictatorship and the introduction of democracy. That is the fatal weakness of the constitution and since it is not accepted by large sections of the people its introduction would mean only imposition and no imposed constitution can hope to succeed. Apparently Marshal Chiang Kai-shek is determined to pursue his unpopular course and he has received in advance the support of the U.S. Government. This is unfortunate for the world's one of reputed democracies cannot give support and encouragement to a dictatorship in another part of the world without bringing on itself ill-repute but that is what President Truman has done by his recent declaration. On the other hand, if the U.S. President had been considerate enough to the Chinese people as a whole and their general welfare he would not have made his recent policy speech which amounted to open support of the present Kuomintang regime.

A Nanking message two days ago reported the decisions reached by the Communist leadership to counteract the activities of the Government and among the steps to be taken are the strengthening of the Communist air force, increasing guerilla activities and tightening the economic blockade of Government-held cities and areas. This means virtual war. On the Government side, it is stated the Chinese Government's national budget for this year is the biggest in her history, the military expenditure amounting to 277,500,000 pounds, or 40 per cent of the entire national income. What is the justification for this huge sum being allotted for military purposes when reconstruction schemes call out for more money in order to put national economy on a sound footing. A large and well-equipped army and air force at the disposal of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek can lead to only one immediate result—a clash on a gigantic scale with the Communist forces. That appears to be the prospect for China during the new year.

TRY IT!



THE INDIAN SCENE

MRS. VIJAYALAKSHMI PANDIT, leader of the Indian delegation to the UNO General Assembly, amply justified her selection by the manner in which she presented the Indian case against the South African Government and scored a victory over it. General Smuts and the British delegate made much of the internal differences in India and the way a section of the Indian people are still suffering under the serious disabilities imposed by social customs and practices. She sharply rebuked the British delegate for bringing into the discussion the Indian differences for that cannot take away the essential soundness and justice of the South African Indians' case against the Union Government. She thus scored a convincing victory and deserves the thanks not only of the South African Indians but of all those who are fighting for social equality and justice.

This temporary victory should not blind us to the urgent need for the removal of untouchability and other evil practices which have crept into Hindu society. They are a standing disgrace or the removal of which many have dedicated their lives. Mr. Gandhi himself has made this one of his life's missions and he has laboured long and hard for the last several years. His powerful influence over the public mind has created widespread feeling in the country that this blot in the Hindu society should be removed without delay.

Social customs and practices die hard unfortunately and in spite of the devoted labours of many disinterested workers in the field, the practices still linger on although their backbone has already been broken and it is only a question of time when Hindu society will emerge free from the stigma of ordained social inequality. That much is now certain for reactionary elements are fighting a losing battle all along the line and they are a discredited lot in the eyes of the public.

The Congress Ministries have also done their bit in the removal of social handicaps and various measures have been taken in this regard. In Madras a comprehensive legislative measure is to be enacted whereby all the public temples will be thrown open to all irrespective of caste or class. Mr. Prakasam, the Madras Premier, is a dynamic personality and he is utterly sincere in whatever he says and does. He is one of the most uncompromising enemies of untouchability and he can be trusted to do all in his power to root out the last vestiges of his evil practice during the tenure of his premiership.

Nowhere is untouchability practised to the extent that it is done in the South. The non-Brahmin Movement did a great deal to bring about a sense of self-reliance and equality among the Depressed Classes and other sections of the Hindu society who have for ages been suffering under social and political handicaps. Much was achieved not only in the social field but in the public services from which the monopolist class was rigidly kept out for several years. By the early death of the founder of the

movement, it suffered a setback but the spirit behind the birth of the non-Brahmin movement has continued until there is at present the widespread public consciousness that untouchability and other evil social practices should be blotted out of the face of India. The pioneering work started by the non-Brahmin movement is nearing fulfilment.

Walking round the streets of Madras one still comes across notice-boards "For Brahmins Only" hung in front of houses. The idea is that there is a room or a flat vacant in a particular house but they can let out only to Brahmins. Much of the social disabilities of the Harijans and others can be traced to the selfishness and greed of this community. But slowly things are changing and public opinion is decidedly on the side of the reformists. This is a happy sign.

It may interest Mrs. Pandit to know that in the heart of Madras city there

is a restaurant known as the Nehru Cafe. It is named after Pandit Nehru, her distinguished brother. Probably, the owner, a South Indian Brahmin, struck upon this name in order to gain popularity. And it is a popular restaurant. No one would have quarrelled with the owner of the restaurant for naming it Nehru Cafe but just below the signboard, are the words "For Hindus Only". What an atrocious thing! Pandit Nehru is one of those who doesn't care two hoots whether one is a Hindu, Muslim or any other so long as he or she is a decent human being and he will be the last, if he were asked, to give his consent to name a restaurant after him from which anyone is kept out.

But that is what is being done here in Madras. In another equally popular restaurant, also in the heart of Madras city, there is a corner railed and barred with the insulting notice-board "For Muslims Only". What has struck me as most amazing is that none of the top

—LETTERS to the EDITOR—

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Sir,—I felt astonished when I read the letter of Mr. Mohd. Ali Khan preaching the cause of English as a medium of instruction in the Universities.

I completely agree with Miss Rafat Ikram Alam, that by accepting English as the "lingua franca" we allow Western culture to dominate our minds and souls and thus enervate our National character.

It has become quite evident how unwisely the modern English literature is poisoning our brains by infusing into them the Western materialism and consequently misleading us from the universal path of Islam.

Becoming disheartened and beginning to favour English by looking at the multitudes of English speaking people would not be a sober deed but mere imitation.

By devoting our attentions earnestly towards the development and progress of Urdu and by its proper encouragement we can make up whatever deficiency there is in our language. We do not lack in Orientalists. What is needed is an incentive to our literary men to enrich the treasure house of Urdu literature and it would very soon become one of the richest and self-sufficient languages of the world.

Lastly by introducing Urdu as the medium of instruction in higher classes we can definitely save several years of a student's life. I would request my friend Mr. Mohd. Ali to consider that upto the middle standard all the education is imparted in Urdu—and how natural we feel. But in the Higher Secondary Classes English comes in and two or three precious years of a student are wasted by teaching him more or less the same things which he had learnt in his previous classes.

By giving instruction in Urdu better results can be produced.

I therefore urge upon the education

authorities to take up this question—yours, etc.,

FARMANUL HAQ

Delhi.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES

Sir,—I hasten to send you my humble gratitude for throwing some light upon the Muslim personnel of the Department of Industries and Supplies, who I learn, are going to be hard hit by the new tricks recently adopted by the Director-General.

Owing to a serious reduction in staff and consequently demotions of the Gazetted and non-Gazetted personnel, no regards has ever been paid to maintain the Muslim quota. A new list of demotion is now under issue, where Muslim Superintendents, Assistant-Inchangers, Assistants and Clerks, who could have been left unaffected, if allowed to make up the "Muslim quota", are sure to fall prey to "Demotion".

The Committee appointed by M.L. last year to safeguard the interests of the Muslim employees in the Central Government has done very unsatisfactory service to the Muslim Employees, with the result that the interests of a fair number of Muslims in the Central Government have been hitherto seriously affected by the Caste Hindus and there is much worse in store for them.

In the name of the Muslim Employees of the Central Government I sincerely appeal to you to chase the matter further and see that not a single Muslim in any Department of the Government of India is either demoted or retrenched unless and until the Muslim Representation is adequate in all grades.—Yours, etc.,

JAVED MAHMUD

Delhi.

By A Political Observer

Congress leaders, including Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, had anything to say against this practice. I am glad to learn that Mr. T. Prakasam, the Madras Premier, is determined to end this practice. Through his initiative, the Madras Corporation is reported to be taking steps to see that no licensed restaurant within the city can make any discrimination whatever in catering to the people. This is a much-needed reform which should have been taken long ago and what Mr. Rajagopalachari has failed to do Mr. Prakasam has done. Mr. Prakasam has the advantage that the people of the province have ample confidence in him and his sense of justice and with popular backing he should be able to push ahead with various schemes for the good and well being of the common people of the South. Fortunately, his enemies who tried hard to get him out have been beaten and he is now securely placed in the Ministry.

ABUSE OF POWER

Sir,—The abuse of political power practised by the U.P. Government by arresting Mr. Wisal Uddin, President of the Mussorie Muslim League, under the strange plea of raising Muslims against the Congress, is without a parallel.

It is a pity that innocent people go to jail while the real enemies of public peace and instigators and provocateurs who pour out venom against the Muslim League, day in and day out, are allowed to go scot-free.—Yours, etc.,

SARWAR HASAN

Malerkotla.

NEW FINANCIER TO DEFY BRITISH BAN

ROME, Tuesday: Prof. Johan Smertenko, vice President of the American League for Free, Palestine, declared today that he "will not recognise" the British Government ban on his entry into Britain.

It was announced in the British House of Commons on December 20 that steps were being taken to exclude him from Britain after allegations by members of Parliament that he was financing the Jewish terrorists in Palestine.

Saying that he had been informed of the ban by the British Embassy here, Prof. Smertenko announced his intention of continuing his plans to return to London in January.—Reuter.

BRITISH TOOL FOR INDIA

BIRMINGHAM, Tuesday. Thirty lorry loads of redundant British tools left Birmingham on Monday for shipment to India. The tools were part of a 250,000 pounds series of purchases made in England recently by Mr. Hansbhai Mehta of Bombay.—APA.